UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE

GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR

Education for Rural Development (ECU/78/012)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	January 1979
Starting date of project activities:	January 1979
Planned completion date:	January 1981
To be executed by:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Education and Culture
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$ 650 000
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. In view of the relatively poor living conditions of the 58 per cent of the total population living in the rural areas, and of the lack of the necessary educational and other facilities for their development, the Government has drawn up a National Programme of Nuclearization which seeks to institute an appropriate educational programme as a basis for subsequent rural development efforts in some 80 rural educational centres or "nucleos", affecting about 800,000 people, of which 60 are currently in operation.

2. This programme was initiated with the assistance of the earlier project, Strengthening of the Educational Sector (ECU/72/021), 1973-1977, which developed the basic model for the implementation of the "nucleos" concept, carried out experiments on curriculum aspects, and trained personnel.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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3. The present project (ECU/78/012) has been approved to consolidate and expand this work, strengthen links between the education and other sectors relating to rural development, as well as links between the National Programme of Nuclearization and others being carried out by other government agencies.

II. Objectives and activities

4. These can be summarized as follows: (a) develop an appropriate curriculum for the rural education centres or 'nuclei' proposed in the above programme which would be adapted to the needs of rural communities; (b) promote community involvement in the work of these centres, particularly through the operation of local development committees and greater intersectoral co-ordination; and (c) train personnel in the various aspects of the National Programme of Nuclearization.

III. Inputs

5. Under the assistance now approved, UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, the services of experts in curriculum and training of consultants in the fields of school mapping, youth education, environmental education and microplanning for rural development, and of a United Nations volunteer in household economy. At the same time national consultants in the fields of research, community organization and participation, and in sectoral training, will be financed under the UNDP contribution. Equipment and fellowships for individual and group training, will also be provided.

6. To carry out the activities for which the assistance is now approved the Government of Ecuador, will make available qualified professional and supporting staff, office facilities, supplies and equipment, directly to the project.

IF. Financial data

7. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	$
Personnel	280 400
Training	176 800
Equipment	159 300
Miscellaneous	33 500
	650 000

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of the inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $ 8,296,300, of which $7,777,800 is in kind and $518 500 is in cash (local currency).

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